

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
receiving a packet from a first network device to a second network device,
wherein the first and second network devices are connected to form a link,
the first network device and the second network device each having a
version of a routing protocol, the packet identifying the first network
device's routing protocol version;
determining whether the first network device's routing protocol version is the
same as the second network device's routing protocol version;
verifying the first network device's routing protocol version as being the same as
the second network device's routing protocol version;
choosing the same routing protocol version acceptable to the first and second
network devices; and
configuring the link such that the routing protocol version is the same for the first
and second network devices, wherein the version of the routing protocol of
each network device is one of a triggered type or a periodic type, and the
method further comprises detecting the first network device's routing
protocol type, and determining whether the first network device's routing
protocol type is the same as the second network device's routing protocol
type.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising configuring
the link such that the routing protocol version of the first and second network
devices comprises a default routing protocol version or a preferred routing
protocol version.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the routing protocol comprises a Routing Information Protocol (RIP).
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the version of RIP comprises one of Version 1 or Version 2.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the version of the RIP of each of the first and second network devices is one of a triggered type or a periodic type.

Claims 7-14 (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon sets of instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to:
receive a packet from a first network device to a second network device, wherein
the first and second network devices are connected to form a link, the first
network device and the second network device each having a version of
routing protocol, the packet identifying the first network device's routing
protocol version;
determine whether the first network device's routing protocol version is the same
as the second network device's routing protocol version;
verify the first network device's routing protocol version as being the same as the
second network device's routing protocol version;
choose the same routing protocol version acceptable to the first and second
network devices; and
configure the link such that the routing protocol version is the same for the first
and second network devices, wherein the version of the routing protocol of
each network device is one of a triggered type or a periodic type. and the

set of instructions which, when executed by the machine, further cause the machine to detect the first network device's routing protocol type, and to determine whether the first network device's routing protocol type is the same as the second network device's routing protocol type.

16. (Cancelled)
17. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim ~~16~~,15, wherein the sets of instructions which, when executed by the machine, further cause the machine to configure the link such that the routing protocol version of the first and second network devices comprises a default routing protocol version or a preferred routing protocol version.
18. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the routing protocol comprises a Routing Information Protocol (RIP).
19. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the version of RIP comprises one of Version 1 or Version 2.
20. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 18 wherein the version of the RIP of each of the first and second network devices is one of a triggered type or a periodic type.

Claims 21-26 (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
a second network device to receive a packet from a first network device, wherein
the first and second network devices are connected to form a link, the first network device and the second network device each having a version of routing protocol, the packet identifying the first network device's routing protocol version; and

a processor coupled with the first and second network devices, the processor to
determine whether the first network device's routing protocol version is
the same as the second network device's routing protocol version,
verify the first network device' routing protocol version as being the same
as the second network device's routing protocol version,
choose the same routing protocol version acceptable to the first and
second network devices, and

configure the link such that the routing protocol version is the same for the
first and second network devices, wherein the version of the
routing protocol of each network device is one of a triggered type
or a periodic type, and the processor is further to detect the first
network device's routing protocol type, and to determine whether
the first network device's routing protocol type is the same as the
second network device's routing protocol type.

28. (Cancelled)
29. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~28~~, 27, wherein the processor is
further to configure the link such that the routing protocol version of the first and
second network devices comprises a default routing protocol version or a
preferred routing protocol version.
30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the routing protocol
comprises a Routing Information Protocol (RIP).
31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the version of RIP
comprises one of Version 1 or Version 2.

32. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a second network device to receive a packet from a first network device, wherein the first and second network devices are connected to form a link, the first network device and the second network device each having a version of routing protocol, the packet identifying the first network device's routing protocol version;

a processor coupled with the storage medium and the first and second network devices, the processor to determine whether the first network device's routing protocol version is the same as the second network device's routing protocol version, verify the first network device's routing protocol version as being the same as the second network device's routing protocol version, choose the same routing protocol version acceptable to the first and second network devices, and

configure the link such that the routing protocol version is the same for the first and second network devices, wherein the version of the routing protocol of each network device is one of a triggered type or a periodic type, and the processor is further to detecting the first network device's routing protocol type, and to determine whether the first network device's routing protocol type is the same as the second network device's routing protocol type; and

a storage medium coupled with the processor, the storage medium to store instructions to facilitate the processor to determine, verify, choose, and configure.

- 33. (Cancelled)
- 34. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~33~~32, wherein the processor is further to configure the link such that the routing protocol version of the first and second network devices comprises a default routing protocol version or a preferred routing protocol version.
- 35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the routing protocol comprises a Routing Information Protocol (RIP).
- 36. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 34, wherein the version of RIP comprises one of Version 1 or Version 2.